

Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 ORM-02 /077 W

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R 272045Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 1568

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PFOR SHUM CI US

SUBJECT: CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BACKHANDEDLY SOLICITS SUPPORT
IN UNGA

1. A FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE SENT TO US AND A NUMBER OF OTHER
LOCALEMBASSIES SEPTEMBER 23 THANKS US IN ADVANCE FOR REPORTING
OBJECTIVELY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE. IT STATES
THAT THESE REPORTS WILL PERMIT OUR GOVERNMENTS "TO OPPOSE, OR AT
LEAST NOT SUPPORT" A CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILE DURING THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE SAID THAT THE EMBASSY KNOWS
OF "THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOC, INCLUDING SPECIAL LEGISLA-
TION, TO SAFEGUARD THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS"
AND IS AWARE OF "THE TRANQUILITY AND AMPLE LIBERTY" OBTAIN-
ING IN CHILE. THEREFORE THE EMBASSY IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED TO
COMMENT TO ITS GOVERNMENT. IT THANKS THE EMBASSY BEFOREHAND
FOR REPORTS THAT WILL HELP DISCREDIT "THE CAPRICIOUSLY
WARPED" CAMPAIGN THE MINISTRY ANTICIPATES DURING THE 31ST
UNGA, PARTICULARLY IN COMMITTEE THREE. IT SAYS THAT EMBASSY
REPORTING WILL PERMIT "AN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE
FACTS AND THEREFORE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR DELEGATION
TO OPPOSE, OR AT THE LEAST NOT ADD TO, THE UNJUST ACCUSA-
TIONS OF WHICH CHILE IS VICTIM". THE NOTE CLOSES: "TOGETHER
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WITH ASKING THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY,

THROUGH ITS DELEGATION TO THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE
MINISTRY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY, COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE,
ETC."

3. COMMENT: THE TONE AND WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTE
LEAD US TO AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF SOME OF OUR
COLLEAGUES. THEY SEE IT AS A SOMEWHAT NAIVE MEASURE
IN LINE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS
INITIATIVE WITH THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS. PREVIOUS
EXAMPLES OF THIS POLICY, PURSUED PRINCIPALLY BY THE
NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE MINISTRY, AIR FORCE COLONEL JAIME
LAVIN, INCLUDE TWO RECENT CIRCULARS ON RELEASE AND
COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES OF PERSONS DETAINED FOR POLITICAL-
TYPE ACTIVITY (SANTIAGO 8568).

4. THE CHILEAN NOTE DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE AND
WE ARE INCLINED NOT TO ANSWER IT. THERE ARE BETTER WAYS
TO ENGAGE THE GOC IN FURTHER DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
SHOULD WE DESIRE TO DO SO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA09433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760364-1030
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760916/aaaaannt.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BACKHANDEDLY SOLICITS SUPPORT IN UNGA
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, SHUM, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006